

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
WISCONSIN, Southeast				

(WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

02/01/08 00:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
02/01/08 08:45 CST	0	

This winter storm started during the afternoon hours on January 31st, but continued into the early morning hours of February 1st. Heavy snow accumulations and gusty east to northeast winds to 25 to 30 mph affected southeast Wisconsin during the overnight hours. Visibilities were occasionally reduced to 1/4 to 1/2 in open areas where blowing and drifting affected travel. Specific snow amounts include 12.0" in the city of Racine, 10 to 11" in the city of Kenosha, 9.5" in the city of Pleasant Prairie, 8" in Caledonia, Union Grove, and Paddock Lake, and around 7" in the southeast third of Walworth County. Lesser snow accumulations of 3 to 5" affected parts of the counties of Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, and Rock. Although this storm started in the afternoon hours of January 31st, it reached verification times and ending times on February 1st, so please refer to the January 31st event as well. Synoptically, low pressure moved northeast up the Ohio River Valley. Some lake-effect moisture enhancement occurred over southeast Wisconsin thanks to northeast winds in the lower atmosphere.

(WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

02/03/08 17:30 CST	0	Winter Weather
02/03/08 22:45 CST	0	

A quick-hitting burst of moderate to heavy snow affected southeastern Wisconsin over a 5-hour period and left 3 to almost 5 inches of new snow. Travel conditions deteriorated quickly and the media reported many vehicle accidents. Specific snow accumulations included 4.5" in Twin Lakes and 4" in the city of Kenosha, both in Kenosha County. In Racine County, both the city of Racine and Union Grove measured 4", while Wind Point came in with 3.2". In Walworth County, Pell Lake picked up 4" and Lake Geneva had about 3". Snow amounts tapered off to 1 inch over the northern portions of Racine and Walworth Counties. Synoptically, the burst of snow was due to a vigorous upper-level disturbance moving west to east across southern Wisconsin with a surge of warm air in its front quadrant.

(WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUCKEE, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

02/04/08 16:00 CST	0	Dense Fog
02/04/08 23:00 CST	0	

Widespread dense fog developed after sunset across a good portion of south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Visibilities were reduced to 1/8 to 1/4 mile. The area affected was mostly southeast of a line from Darlington to Madison to Beaver Dam to Sheboygan. Several flights were canceled or delayed at Milwaukee Mitchell Field and other airports. The media noted a few vehicle accidents. Synoptically, diminishing winds, night-time cooling, and a very moist air mass near the ground allowed the dense fog to develop.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA

02/05/08 18:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
02/06/08 21:00 CST	0	

A long-duration, massive winter storm with near blizzard conditions pounded southern Wisconsin with snow accumulations of 10 to 21 inches, thundersnow, occasional northerly wind gusts to 35 mph, and blowing and drifting snow that reduced visibilities to occasionally below 1/4 mile. Some sleet was mixed in with the snow southeast of Interstate-43. An isolated wind gust to 52 knots (60 mph) was measured at the Janesville Airport in Rock County. Drifts to 4 to 5 feet were reported. Arguably, this was the worst storm on such a widespread basis since the memorable storms of the late 1970s. The storm started overnight February 5th, and by daybreak February 6th accumulations ranged from 2 to 3 inches from the Madison area to Milwaukee on up to 5 to 7 inches near the Illinois border. Snow rates eased up and visibilities improved between about 0500 CST and 0900 CST. However, after about 0900 CST the main energy of the storm moved north out of Illinois, and it snowed at rates of 1 to 2 inches per hour through about 1800 CST while the winds increased in strength. After about 1800 CST the intensity of the snowfall gradually diminished from west to east across southern Wisconsin.

Some roads became impassable due to vehicles getting stuck in deep snow drifts on inclines. A major traffic backup occurred on Interstate 39/90 in the westbound lanes just south of where STH 51 intersects the Interstate in Dane County due to semi-tractor trailers jackknifing and blocking traffic on a hill. The backup started around 1030 CST to 1100 CST on February 6th and ended at daybreak on the 7th. This backup would eventually build south to near Janesville as stopped vehicles became drifted in. As many as 552 semi-trailers and 295 personal vehicles were involved in this backup for up to 10 to 20 hours. Additionally, a large backup occurred in the eastbound lanes in the same general area, involving 567 semi-trailers and 134 personal vehicles. Eighteen to 21 inches of snow fell in the area of the backup along with some gusts to 35 to 43 knots (40 to 50 mph). About 5 miles south of Sheboygan, the northbound lanes on Interstate-43 were closed due to jack-knifed semitrailer trucks. Milwaukee Mitchell Field shut down airline traffic at about 1300 CST due to near-blizzard conditions.

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There was one fatality (indirectly-related) just south of Milwaukee Mitchell Field around 0830 CST when the driver lost control of their vehicle and slid into a semi. Media reports indicated that there were many vehicle accidents, but traffic counts indicated that a number of people stayed home rather than fight the poor weather and road conditions. It was noted that some snow-plow crews had to stop plowing at times due the heavy snow and winds. Needless to say, numerous civic functions, schools, and businesses were closed on February 6th and 7th.

Two-day snowfall totals include: 21" at Orfordville and 9WNW Beloit; 20.6 at Delavan; 20.4" at Ft. Atkinson; 20.1" at 2N Saukville; 20" at Beloit, Jackson, and 1E Evansville; 19.5" at Germantown; 18.4" at Town of Mount Pleasant; 18" at 2NE Glendale and Stoughton; 17.8" at Brodhead; 17.3" at West Allis; 17.1" at Beaver Dam/Town of Westford; 17.0" at Jefferson, Brown Deer North, 1N Sun Prairie, Lake Mills, 2 NNE Downtown Milwaukee, and Rome; 16.5" at Deerfield, Greenfield, and 1N Beaver Dam; 16.4" at 1NNE Cedarburg, 16.3" at the Milwaukee/Sullivan WFO about 3.8 miles southeast of Sullivan and 2SE Waukesha; 16.2" at 1E Cedarburg/Lakefield; 16" at Brookfield, 4NNE Sun Prairie, 4S Waukesha, Janesville, Johnson Creek, 1S Mt. Horeb, 2SW West Bend, Alleton, and 2N Saukville; 15.5" at Arygle, Kenosha, 0.4W State Fair Park, and Hales Corner/Whitnall Park; 15.1" at Wind Point, 15" at 1NNE Milwaukee, Afton, Union Grove, 1S Rochester, Watertown, Cambridge, 3W Thiensville, and 1SW Palmyra; 14.8" at Paddock Lake, 14.7" at Big Bend and Random Lake; 14.6" at 3SE Portage, 14.5" at 3SE Palmyra, an estimated 14" to 15" over southeastern Iowa County, 14" at Juneau, Milton, Sheboygan, Pell Lake, and 6NW Kenosha, 13.8" at 0.5W Delafield; 13.4" at Madison Truax Field, 12.9" at Milwaukee Mitchell Field, 12.5" at Howards Grove, 12.4" at Cottage Grove, 12.1" at Oconomowoc, 10" at 5W Cambellsport/Ashford; 9.5" at Sauk City, around 8" in extreme southeast Green Lake County, and 6 to 7 inches across southern Marquette County.

Madison Truax Field measured 11.9" of snow on the calendar day of February 6th, breaking the old daily record of 5.3" set back in 1911. The 13.3" of snow that Madison picked up for the 24-hour period ending 1800 CST February 6th was the 2nd highest total ever (17.3" on December 3, 1990 is the greatest). Milwaukee Mitchell Field measured 11.6" on the calendar day of February 6th, breaking the old daily record of 8.3" set back in 1974.

A few quotes from spotters and the general public include: "Woke up to a near blizzard, "the scary part is the over-burden of snow on roofs - can they support tons of snow?", "Perfect storm closes regional malls," "Snow brings county to a standstill."

Thanks to the snow that fell in the February 5-6th winter storm/near blizzard, many location in south-central and southeast Wisconsin eventually broke their all-time winter snowfall records.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	02/09/08 20:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
	02/10/08 18:00 CST	0	

Strong northwest winds behind an arctic cold generated widespread blowing snow that lowered visibilities to occasionally below 1/4 mile in open areas. The near-blizzard conditions made for hazardous driving conditions across south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Some new light snow accompanied the strong winds, generally in the 1/2 to 1 inch range. Hundreds of vehicle runoffs and accidents were reported as roads became icy and slippery, based on media reports. Snow drifts grew to a height of 4 feet on some roads in Sheboygan County according to spotter reports. Maximum wind gusts were generally 30 to 35 knots (35 to 40 mph), however, a gust of 42 knots (49 mph) was measured at the Sheboygan airport (KSBM). The start time of the strong winds was generally about 2000 CST northwest of a line from Brodhead to Whitewater to Oconomowoc to Port Washington. Southeast of this line the start time was about 2300 CST. There were isolated reports of some old trees or large tree branches knocked down by the wind. However, there were no damage reports.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	02/10/08 00:00 CST	0	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
	02/10/08 18:00 CST	0	

Bitter cold air pushed into south-central and southeast Wisconsin during the pre-dawn hours of February 10th on northwest winds of 17 to 20 knots (20 to 23 mph) frequently gusting to 30 to 42 knots (35 to 48 mph). Temperatures dropped to zero near Lake Michigan down to 8 below to 12 below zero west of Madison. The resultant wind chill values dropped to -35 to -37.

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA	02/14/08 00:30 CST	5K	Heavy Snow
	02/14/08 19:00 CST	0	

A band of moderate to heavy snow parked itself across the area stretching from around Reedsburg in Sauk County to Portage to Montello and Green Lake over to Fond du Lac and north of Sheboygan. Specific snow totals include 13" in Montello, 12" in Green Lake, 11.3" northeast of Ripon, 10" in Fond du Lac, 9" in Portage and Wisconsin Dells, and 8.5" in Howards Grove. Dozens of vehicle accidents were noted by the media. Snow amounts tapered off to 2" to 4" over the southern parts of the counties of Sauk, Columbia, Fond du Lac,

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<p>and Sheboygan. Just prior to this heavy snow event, during the evening of February 13th, a small section of a roof of a manufacturing plant in Sheboygan Falls sagged a few feet due to the weight of accumulated snow. A small hole was cut in the roof to allow pushing of snow down into the plant to lessen the roof load. Synoptically, the heavy snow was associated with mid-level warm air advection of moisture north into Wisconsin where the jet stream pattern favored mid-level convergence. The resultant snow flakes were reported to be fairly large.</p>				
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(WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	02/11/08 23:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/12/08 20:00 CST		0	
<p>Yet another long-duration snow event affected parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin for about 20 to 21 hours. Snow accumulations of 3 to 5 were noted. However, 6 to 8 inches fell in the lakeshore counties of Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha where some lake-enhancement moisture blended with the system snow. An isolated maximum amount of 9.7" was measured on the UW-Milwaukee campus. In Caledonia (Racine Co.), 8.2" was measured. The Milwaukee Mitchell Airport had 7.5". There was little winds with this system and snowplow crews were able to keep up with the accumulations. Therefore this event in the lakeshore counties was not logged as a heavy snow event. Synoptically, the snow was associated with an upper level weather disturbance that rotated west to east across southern Wisconsin.</p>				
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(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN	02/17/08 00:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	02/17/08 19:00 CST		0	
<p>Yet another winter storm pounded parts of south-central and east-central Wisconsin with freezing rain that changed to snow accumulations of 6 to 12 inches. Blowing and drifting of the snow was reported, and ice accumulations at the start were 1/10 to 1/8 of an inch. The freezing rain melted some of the existing snow cover that resulted in some ponding of water in low spots before things changed to all snow. Specific snow accumulations include 12" in Portage, 10.5" in Montello, 10.3" in Baraboo, 10" in both Berlin and La Valle, around 8" in northwestern Iowa County, 6 to 7 inches in western Dane County and the northern part of Lafayette County, 6" in far northwestern Green County and far northwestern Dodge County, 6 to 8" in far western Fond du Lac County, and 1 to 2" in western Sheboygan County. Hundreds of vehicle accidents were reported by the media. Numerous civic functions were cancelled ahead of time. Synoptically, low pressure moved from eastern Texas to central Illinois to southeastern Wisconsin to northern lower Michigan.</p>				
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(WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE	02/17/08 01:00 CST		10K	Winter Storm
	02/17/08 19:00 CST		0	
<p>Yet another winter storm pounded parts of south-central and east-central Wisconsin with freezing rain that changed to snow accumulations of 6 to 12 inches. Blowing and drifting of the snow was reported, and ice accumulations at the start were 1/10 to 1/8 of an inch. The freezing rain melted some of the existing snow cover that resulted in some ponding of water in low spots before things changed to all snow. Specific snow accumulations include 12" in Portage, 10.5" in Montello, 10.3" in Baraboo, 10" in both Berlin and La Valle, around 8" in northwestern Iowa County, 6 to 7 inches in western Dane County and the northern part of Lafayette County, 6" in far northwestern Green County and far northwestern Dodge County, 6 to 8" in far western Fond du Lac County, and 1 to 2" in western Sheboygan County. Hundreds of vehicle accidents were reported by the media. Scattered power outages affected about 30000 customers as tree branches fell onto power lines. A section of a roof of a Baraboo business partially collapsed due to the weight of accumulated snow and ice. A small part of the roof of a Wisconsin Dells business collapsed as well. Numerous civic functions were cancelled ahead of time. Synoptically, low pressure moved from eastern Texas to central Illinois to southeastern Wisconsin to northern lower Michigan.</p>				
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(WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN	02/17/08 00:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	02/17/08 18:00 CST		0	
<p>Yet another winter storm pounded parts of south-central and east-central Wisconsin with freezing rain that changed to snow accumulations of 6 to 12 inches. Blowing and drifting of the snow was reported, and ice accumulations at the start were 1/10 to 1/8 of an inch. The freezing rain melted some of the existing snow cover that resulted in some ponding of water in low spots before things changed to all snow. Specific snow accumulations include 12" in Portage, 10.5" in Montello, 10.3" in Baraboo, 10" in both Berlin and La Valle, around 8" in northwestern Iowa County, 6 to 7 inches in western Dane County and the northern part of Lafayette County, 6" in far northwestern Green County and far northwestern Dodge County, 6 to 8" in far western Fond du Lac County, and 1 to 2" in western Sheboygan County. Hundreds of vehicle accidents were reported by the media. Numerous civic functions were cancelled ahead of time. Synoptically, low pressure moved from eastern Texas to central Illinois to southeastern Wisconsin to northern lower Michigan.</p>				
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(WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z069) ROCK				

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Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
	02/17/08 01:00 CST		0.10M	Ice Storm
	02/17/08 12:00 CST		0	

An ice storm affected a 25 to 30 mile wide area stretching from Janesville to Ft. Atkinson to Delafield to West Bend to Port Washington thanks to about 11 hours of freezing rain. Ice accumulations ranged from 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Some light snow was mixed in with the freezing rain at times. The resultant icy roads were a factor in a fatality (indirectly-related) that occurred in a 1-vehicle accident near Milton when the driver lost control of the vehicle. Many civic functions and businesses had closed ahead of the storm. Ponding of water also occurred on many streets thanks to melting snow and freezing rain accumulations. Scattered power outages occurred as falling branches snapped power lines. Hundreds of vehicle accidents were reported by the media as drivers found it nearly impossible to climb even slight grades. This ice storm was the fourth winter storm/ice storm combination during the 2007-08 winter season across south-central and southeast Wisconsin, and was associated with a larger winter storm that dumped 6' to 12" of new snow across parts of south-central Wisconsin on January 17th. Normally, an ice storm occurs only about once every three years across southern Wisconsin.

(WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

02/17/08 00:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
02/17/08 12:00 CST	0	

A mix of snow...freezing rain...and rain affected southeast Wisconsin for about 12 hours. Scattered slippery spots developed on some roads, resulting in dozens of vehicle accidents. The rain and melting snow generated ponding of water of a depth of 6" to 2 feet in low spots. STH 32 in Kenosha County had one lane closed due to standing water. The canopy of a drive-in restaurant in the southern part of the city of Milwaukee collapsed due to the weight of rain-laden snow. Synoptically, this event was the result of a low pressure moving from eastern Texas to central Illinois through southeastern Wisconsin to northern Lower Michigan. Associated ice storm/winter storm conditions were found over parts of south-central and southeastern Wisconsin to the northwest of this winter weather event.

(WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA

02/25/08 18:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
02/26/08 06:00 CST	0	

Yet another weather system affected parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin with a mix of rain, freezing rain, and sleet that changed to all snow. Snow accumulations generally ranged from 2" to 4.5" across the southern tier of Wisconsin, with an isolated maximum amount of 6.5" in Genoa City of far southeastern Walworth County. At the end of the snow period north winds increased to 13 to 17 knots (15 to 20 mph) with some gusts to 26 knots (30 mph). Consequently, some blowing and drifting snow affected open areas. Dozens of vehicle accidents were reported by the media, and some school districts started classes 2 hours late.

(WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE

02/05/08 18:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
02/06/08 21:00 CST	0	

A long-duration, massive winter storm with near blizzard conditions pounded southern Wisconsin with snow accumulations of 10 to 21 inches, thundersnow, occasional northerly wind gusts to 35 mph, and blowing and drifting snow that reduced visibilities to occasionally below 1/4 mile. Some sleet was mixed in with the snow southeast of Interstate-43. An isolated wind gust to 52 knots (60 mph) was measured at the Janesville Airport in Rock County. Drifts to 4 to 5 feet were reported. Arguably, this was the worst storm on such a widespread basis since the memorable storms of the late 1970s. The storm started overnight February 5th, and by daybreak February 6th accumulations ranged from 2 to 3 inches from the Madison area to Milwaukee on up to 5 to 7 inches near the Illinois border. Snow rates eased up and visibilities improved between about 0500 CST and 0900 CST. However, after about 0900 CST the main energy of the storm moved north out of Illinois, and it snowed at rates of 1 to 2 inches per hour through about 1800 CST while the winds increased in strength. After about 1800 CST the intensity of the snowfall gradually diminished from west to east across southern Wisconsin.

Some roads became impassable due to vehicles getting stuck in deep snow drifts on inclines. A major traffic backup occurred on Interstate 39/90 in the westbound lanes just south of where STH 51 intersects the Interstate in Dane County due to semi-tractor trailers jackknifing and blocking traffic on a hill. The backup started around 1030 CST to 1100 CST on February 6th and ended at daybreak on the 7th. This backup would eventually build south to near Janesville as stopped vehicles became drifted in. As many as 552 semi-trailers and 295 personal vehicles were involved in this backup for up to 10 to 20 hours. Additionally, a large backup occurred in the eastbound lanes in the same general area, involving 567 semi-trailers and 134 personal vehicles. Eighteen to 21 inches of snow fell in the area of the backup along with some gusts to 35 to 43 knots (40 to 50 mph). About 5 miles south of Sheboygan, the northbound lanes on Interstate-43 were closed due to jack-knifed semitrailer trucks. Milwaukee Mitchell Field shut down airline traffic at about 1300 CST due to near-blizzard conditions.

There was one fatality (indirectly-related) just south of Milwaukee Mitchell Field around 0830 CST when the driver lost control of their vehicle and slid into a semi. Media reports indicated that there were many vehicle accidents, but traffic counts indicated that a number of people stayed home rather than fight the poor weather and road conditions. It was noted that some snow-plow crews had to stop plowing at times due the heavy snow and winds. Needless to say, numerous civic functions, schools, and businesses were closed on February 6th and 7th.

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A few quotes from spotters and the general public include: "Woke up to a near blizzard, "the scary part is the over-burden of snow on roofs - can they support tons of snow?", "Perfect storm closes regional malls," "Snow brings county to a standstill."

Thanks to the snow that fell in the February 5-6th winter storm/near blizzard, many location in south-central and southeast Wisconsin eventually broke their all-time winter snowfall records.

(WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK

02/05/08 16:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
02/06/08 21:00 CST	0	

A long-duration, massive winter storm with near blizzard conditions pounded southern Wisconsin with snow accumulations of 10 to 21 inches, thundersnow, occasional northerly wind gusts to 35 mph, and blowing and drifting snow that reduced visibilities to occasionally below 1/4 mile. Some sleet was mixed in with the snow southeast of Interstate-43. An isolated wind gust to 52 knots (60 mph) was measured at the Janesville Aiport in Rock County. Drifts to 4 to 5 feet were reported. Arguably, this was the worst storm on such a widespread basis since the memorable storms of the late 1970s. The storm started overnight February 5th, and by daybreak February 6th accumulations ranged from 2 to 3 inches from the Madison area to Milwaukee on up to 5 to 7 inches near the Illinois border. Snow rates eased up and visibilities improved between about 0500 CST and 0900 CST. However, after about 0900 CST the main energy of the storm moved north out of Illinois, and it snowed at rates of 1 to 2 inches per hour through about 1800 CST while the winds increased in strength. After about 1800 CST the intensity of the snowfall gradually diminished from west to east across southern Wisconsin.

Some roads became impassable due to vehciles getting stuck in deep snow drifts on inclines. A major traffice backup occurred on Interstate 39/90 in the westbound lanes just south of where STH 51 intersects the Interstate in Dane County due to semi-tractor trailers jackknifing and blocking traffic on a hill. The backup started around 1030 CST to 1100 CST on February 6th and ended at daybreak on the 7th. This backup would eventually build south to near Janesville as stopped vehicles became drifted in. As many as 552 semi-trailers and 295 personal vehicles were involved in this backup for up to 10 to 20 hours. Additionally, a large backup occurred in the eastbound lanes in the some general area, involving 567 semi-trailers and 134 personal vehicles. Eighteen to 21 inches of snow fell in the area of the backup along with some gusts to 35 to 43 knots (40 to 50 mph). About 5 miles south of Sheboygan, the northbound lanes on Interstate-43 were closed due to jack-knifed semitrailer trucks. Milwaukee Mithcell Field shut down airline traffic at about 1300 CST due to near-blizzard conditions.

There was one fatality (indirectly-related) just south of Milwaukee Mitchell Field around 0830 CST when the driver lost control of their vehicle and slid into a semi. Media reports indicated that there were many vehicle accidents, but traffic counts indicated that a number of people stayed home rather than fight the poor weather and road conditions. It was noted that some snow-plow crews had to stop plowing at times due the heavy snow and winds. Needless to say, numerous civic functions, schools, and businesses were closed on February 6th and 7th.

Two-day snowfall totals include: 21" at Orfordville and 9WNW Beloit; 20.6 at Delavan; 20.4" at Ft. Atkinson; 20.1" at 2N Saukville; 20" at Beloit, Jackson, and 1E Evansville; 19.5" at Germantown; 18.4" at Town of Mount Pleasant; 18" at 2NE Glendale and Stoughton; 17.8" at Brodhead; 17.3" at West Allis; 17.1" at Beaver Dam/Town of Westford; 17.0" at Jefferson, Brown Deer North, 1N Sun Prairie, Lake Mills, 2 NNE Downtown Milwaukee, and Rome; 16.5" at Deerfield, Greenfield, and 1N Beaver Dam; 16.4" at 1NNE Cedarburg, 16.3" at the Milwaukee/Sullivan WFO about 3.8 miles southeast of Sullivan and 2SE Waukesha; 16.2" at 1E Cedarburg/Lakefield; 16" at Brookfield, 4NNE Sun Prairie, 4S Waukesha, Janesville, Johnson Creek, 1S Mt. Horeb, 2SW West Bend, Alleton, and 2N Saukville; 15.5" at Arygle, Kenosha, 0.4W State Fair Park, and Hales Corner/Whitnall Park; 15.1" at Wind Point, 15" at 1NNE Milwaukee, Afton, Union Grove, 1S Rochester, Watertown, Cambridge, 3W Thiensville, and 1SW Palmrya; 14.8" at Paddock Lake, 14.7" at Big Bend and Random Lake; 14.6" at 3SE Portage, 14.5" at 3SE Palmyra, an estimated 14" to 15" over southeastern Iowa County, 14" at Juneau, Milton, Sheboygan, Pell Lake, and 6NW

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
Kenosha, 13.8" at 0.5W Delafield; 13.4" at Madison Truax Field, 12.9" at Milwaukee Mitchell Field, 12.5" at Howards Grove, 12.4" at Cottage Grove, 12.1" at Oconomowoc, 10" at 5W Cambellsport/Ashford; 9.5" at Sauk City, around 8" in extreme southeast Green Lake County, and 6 to 7 inches across southern Marquette County.				

Madison Truax Field measured 11.9" of snow on the calendar day of February 6th, breaking the old daily record of 5.3" set back in 1911. The 13.3" of snow that Madison picked up for the 24-hour period ending 1800 CST February 6th was the 2nd highest total ever (17.3" on December 3, 1990 is the greatest). Milwaukee Mitchell Field measured 11.6" on the calendar day of February 6th, breaking the old daily record of 8.3" set back in 1974.

A few quotes from spotters and the general public include: "Woke up to a near blizzard, "the scary part is the over-burden of snow on roofs - can they support tons of snow?", "Perfect storm closes regional malls," "Snow brings county to a standstill."

Thanks to the snow that fell in the February 5-6th winter storm/near blizzard, many location in south-central and southeast Wisconsin eventually broke their all-time winter snowfall records.

(WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	02/05/08 16:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
	02/06/08 21:00 CST	0	

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